

# Francis Marion - Sumter Resource Advisory Committee

Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Headquarters

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC

July 22, 2014

Meeting Notes

**Chairman:** Eric Greenway

**Facilitator:** Beth LeMaster

## Attendees:

| Committee Members   | Presenters                                    | Forest Service   |
|---|---|--|
| Eric Greenway-via telephone<br>Sonya Shahnaj-via telephone<br>Freddie Gault<br>Steve Hudson<br>Julia Fisher<br>Kathy Livingston<br>Lynn Lewis-Weis<br>Dino Tepparra<br>Barry Jurs<br>Natalie Britt<br>Joe James<br>Tim Long | Danny Thrower<br>Jerry Brannon<br>Mike Pisano | Rick Lint, DFO<br>Mary Morrison, Coordinator<br>Beth LeMaster, Facilitator<br>Tammy Robinson-Note Taker<br>LaRue Bryant, Forest Engineer |

- ➔ Meeting was call to order at 9:45 a.m. by facilitator
- ➔ LaRue Bryant, forest engineer, discussed evacuation route in case of emergency
- ➔ Rick Lint, forest supervisor, gave welcome
- ➔ Approval of Agenda
- ➔ Introductions
- ➔ Review of previous minutes-no changes to meeting minutes

## Public Forum

- Required to have 30 minutes for public to speak. No comments were received in advance from the public

## Information Sharing, Title III Projects

- Newberry, Berkeley and Union counties have elected not to use Title III funds

### Discussion on Title I, II, and III

- 25% of revenues go back to counties based on timber sales; reduced in the 80s and 90s; in 2000 congress passed Secure Rural Schools Act
- Funds come from tax on helium and decreases by 5% each year
- Title I (used the same way as the 25% fund; used for schools and roads)
- Title II (projects must benefit national forest land but does not necessarily have to be on national forest land)
- Title III (search and rescue, firewise education and community wildfire protection plan)
- Title I and Title III go directly to the county through the state's treasurer's office
- Title II goes to Forest Service
- Percentage of funding based on the amount of national forest land in county

### Project Presentations

- **Presenter:** Danny Thrower/Berkeley County Roads and Bridges (County Roads and Maintenance)
  - Project goals and objectives: improve the unpaved road system throughout Berkeley County encompassing 143,500 acres
  - Proposing to improve 17.7 miles of unpaved roads in the Francis Marion National Forest
  - \$29,134 for material cost is the estimated amount needed to complete the total request to improve 17.7 miles of road
  - \$12,552 are the remaining total funds
  - \$18,764 is the estimated cost per mile for future road improvements. 20.4 miles of national forest roads remain
  - Additional funding amount = \$38,000
  - Improve approximately two additional miles of unpaved roads within the Francis Marion National Forest
- **Presenter:** Danny Thrower/Project: Berkeley County Roads and Bridges (Jericho Horsetrail Improvements)
  - Proposing to improve 1565' of the trail head road and the existing parking and install a Geoblock system on 1088' of the rail to repair damages of equine traffic on wet soils and adequately support and dissipate the design loads over highly impacted areas preventing future trail degradation.
  - Additional funding amount = \$20,000
  - Improve approximately 1,000 additional feet and repair two bridge crossings within the Francis Marion National Forest

- **Presenter:** Michael Pisano/Project: Newberry County Roads and Bridges (County Road Maintenance)
  - Newberry County is requesting \$30,636 per year over the next five years to conduct maintenance on roads in Sumter National Forest (16.9 total miles)
  - Ongoing maintenance project which includes pavement repair (potholes), surface treatment and replenishment of gravel
  - Work will be conducted by Newberry County employees with equipment owned by the county
  - Repair of paved roads is the priority. Gravel roads on the list will be reevaluated when roads are completed to determine priority at the point
  - Request for additional funding as it becomes available
  
- **Presenter:** Jerry Brannon-Union County Roads and Bridges/Project: Sinclair Dirt Road Improvements
  - Project goals and objectives: improve road surface and drainage to correct impassibility during inclement weather and improve travel surface for residents, timber harvest and emergency vehicles
  - Road is 2.53 miles long
  - Need four wheel drive to navigate road; especially in rainy conditions
  - Road will be reconstructed and additional drainage features will be added to prevent future problems
  - The total project cost is estimated at \$235,000. Requesting \$80,000 from Forest Service. Additional funds from CTC and Union County.

### **Recommendations for Title II Projects**

Motion and Seconded: Fund Berkeley County and Newberry County at their requests and use the remaining for Union County. See Table 1 for project-specific recommendations.

- Berkeley County-\$58,000
- Newberry County-\$30,636.83
- Union County-\$40,957

### **Discussion**

- Will unused allocated money roll over to Union County? Decision would be up to committee but would be challenging. Once an agreement is in place, it is difficult to back out of the agreement. Counties are encouraged to list all projects that may need funding.
  
- Would like to see some partnerships in protecting the environment and habitat

Unanimous vote and motion carries. Eric will write a letter of recommended funding and submit to Rick.

**Ethics Video and Forms**

- Video is posted online. Committee was asked to complete forms stating they watched the video

**Follow Up Items**

- Danny Thrower with Berkeley County will send Material Safety Data Sheets to Mary
- Lynn Lewis-Weis with NWTf will send out native seeds list to Mary
- Aforementioned list will be posted online

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm**

| Table 1. Recommendations on Title II Projects Developed by the Francis Marion – Sumter Resource Advisory Committee |                                     |                    |                 |   |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| County   | Available Title II funds per county | Project by county  | Requested Funds | Comments  | Recommendations |
| Berkeley (015)   | \$59,994.09                         |                    |                 |   |                 |
|  |                                     | Jericho Horsetrail | \$ 20,000.00    | previous Title II project, so an update is attached | \$ 20,000.00    |
|  |                                     | County Road Mtnce  | \$ 38,000.00    | previous Title II project, so an update is attached | \$ 38,000.00    |
| Newberry (071)   | \$30,636.83                         |                    |                 |   |                 |
|  |                                     | County Road Mtnce  | \$ 26,466.00    | new project   | \$ 30,636.83    |
| Union (087)  | \$38,963.30                         |                    |                 |   |                 |
|  |                                     | Sinclair Dirt Road | \$ 80,000.00    | new project   | \$ 40,957.39    |
|  | \$129,594.22                        |                    | \$164,466.00    |   | \$ 129,594.22   |